

Refugees Revealed

Geneva Spirit Still Poison In Vietnam

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Society of St. Columban
(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Saigon—The communist-distilled "spirit of Geneva" may have a bright new label but it's the same old poison in north Vietnam.

Catholics are dying without the sacraments in north Vietnam, even when there is a priest within a few miles of them.

The priest may not go to a nearby village, even inside his own parish, without a permit. When a sick-call comes, the priest applies to the local official bureau for the permit. The communist authorities delay three or four days before granting it. Too often the sick person is dead before the priest arrives.

REFUGEES FROM Vinh told this correspondent of a typical case. A young man, about 20, was very ill and sent for the priest, who was only three kilometers (a little less than two miles) away. The priest asked the authorities three times for permission to go on the sick call. After three days it was given. By that time the young man was unconscious.

Escaping refugees, now rare, bring word of the slow, steady strangulation of Catholic life in the north.

At least 10 priests are believed to be in prison in the Red "democratic republic" of the Vietnam.

One of these, Father Pham Tan, the authorized representative of the Bishop in Thanh Hoa, was arrested June 14, the date of Vietnam's president Ho Chi Minh's decree promising "religious liberty."

Father Tan, parish priest of Balang, is reportedly serving a prison sentence of 20 years. He was condemned after the clashes between Vietnamese soldiers and would-be refugees in Balang.

The International Supervisory Commission, comprised of Indian, Canadian and Polish delegates, unanimously censured the Vietnam in its published report on Balang. But it has failed to get justice for the priest and lay Catholics of Balang, sentenced by Vietnamese "people's courts" after the incident.

A Redemptorist Brother, a

Vietnamese, arrested May 6 in Hanoi, has been held incommunicado since.

"Outwardly the Vietnamese say you may teach religion," a refugee from Vinh province said. "But they hold meetings for the children to prevent them from coming to catechism. The education in the schools is all communist. Children are taught atheism. Any child who argues or objects is penalized."

Catholic books were forbidden in this refugee's region. Even the Catholic calendar, with its feast days and other reminders, was banned.

If there has been any change since Geneva, nobody seems to have noticed it in north Vietnam.

Reds Mitigate Priest's Death Sentence

London—(NC)—A well-known Yugoslav priest who was condemned to death by the communist government has had his sentence changed to life imprisonment, according to a statement from the Yugoslav Embassy here.

THE STATEMENT about Father Marjan Herman, superior of the Franciscan monastery at Curile in Croatia, was made following requests by English Catholics to representatives here.

Father Marjan was arrested and sentenced last year after he attended a meeting of "patriotic priests" and denounced the association.

While he was in prison he wrote a statement proclaiming his innocence which was smuggled out of his death cell in Sisak prison in central Croatia.

Extension Sets 50th Anniversary

Chicago—Five Cardinals and some 120 Archbishops and Bishops will take part in the celebration of the golden jubilee of the Catholic Church Extension Society here on November 20 and 21.

At the jubilee Mass in Holy Name Cathedral on November 20, Their Eminences Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago; Thomas Cardinal Tien, S.V.D., exiled Archbishop of Peking; Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay; Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, and James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, will occupy thrones in the Sanctuary.

Also present in the Sanctuary will be His Excellency Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States. Archbishop William D. O'Brien, Auxiliary of Chicago, who has worked for the society since 1907 and has been its president since 1925, will offer the jubilee Mass.

Msgr. Edward M. Burke, Chancellor of the Chicago archdiocese, announced that a special letter from His Holiness Pope Pius XII concerning the society's jubilee will be read during the Mass.

Cardinal Stritch will preach the sermon. The Cardinal also will preside at the annual meeting of the society the next day in the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

Msgr. Thomas J. Reed, society general secretary, said that in addition to members of the hierarchy from all parts of the continental United States, prelates from Puerto Rico, Alaska, Hawaii and Panama will be present. At the annual meeting, Archbishop O'Brien will read a report dealing with the expenditure of some \$2 million for home missions during the last year.

'Show Pity' Hospital Staffs Told

Castelgandolfo—(NC)—Those hundred staff members of the Castelgandolfo hospitals of Naples to whom he gave an audience at the papal summer residence, here, included were doctors, nurses and administrative personnel.

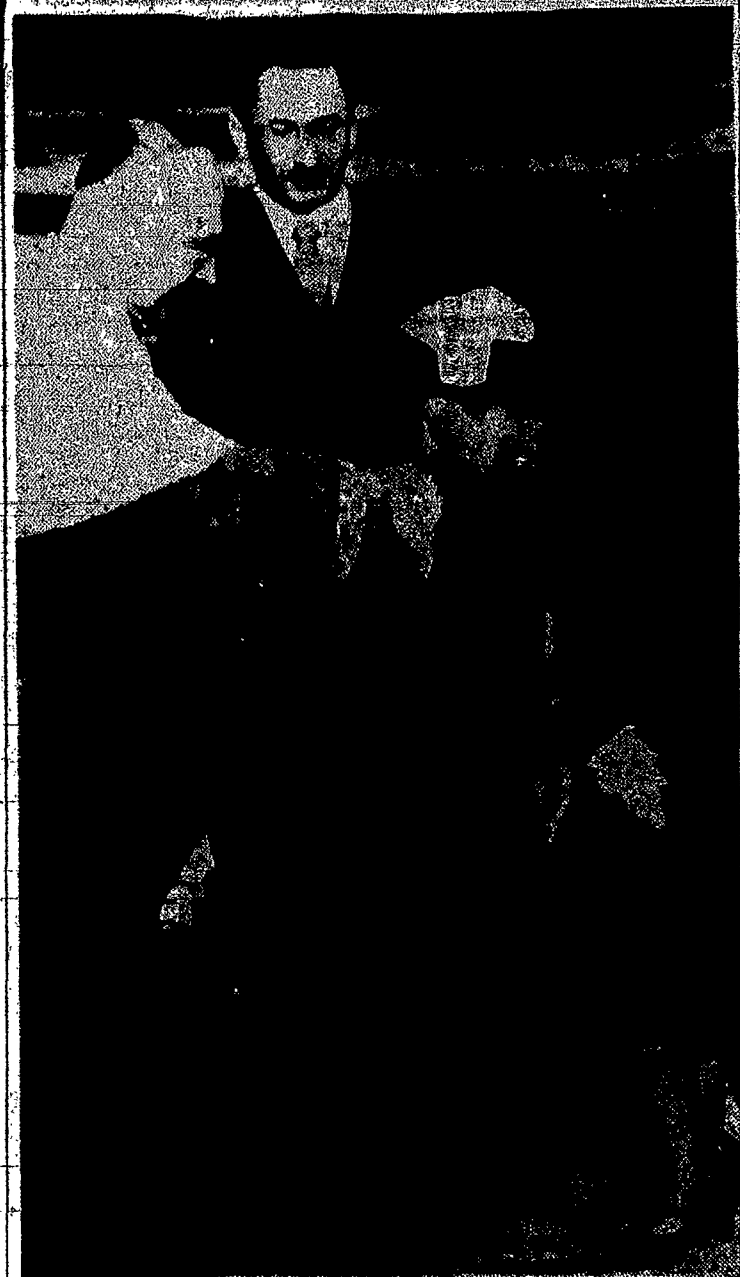
"Hospital services are governed by norms defining each individual's duties, and doctors and nurses may honestly believe they have met their obligations once these duties are fulfilled," the Holy Father said.

However, the Holy Father gave these counsels to several

added, true charity goes much farther, is never fully satisfied, is unassuming in giving oneself, and anticipates the wishes of those to whom it is dedicated.

"Sharing others' troubles and showing pity for the afflicted require forgetting self and desisting from indifference and a certain insensibility which slowly weakens personal reaction in the face of painful, but always similar, scenes," the Pope said.

CHIEF GREETED



New York—President and Señora Carlos Castillo Armas of Guatemala are greeted by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman at his residence here where they were guests at a luncheon. Earlier, Mr. Castillo Armas and his wife attended a Solemn Pontifical Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral where the Guatemalan President occupied a seat of honor in the sanctuary on the epistle side of the altar. (KNS Photo)

Controversial Spain Prelate Retires, Ill

Vatican City—(NC)—The Vatican Secretariate of State has confirmed Spanish press reports announcing the appointment of an apostolic administrator for the Archdiocese of Seville, which is headed by His Eminence Pedro Cardinal Segura y Saenz.

The administrator appointed is Archbishop Jose Maria Bueno Monreal, former Bishop of Victoria who last year was named Coadjutor to Cardinal Segura, with the right of succession.

The reports say that the Cardinal has not exercised his episcopal functions since his grave illness several months back.

ONE OF THE oldest members of the Sacred College in point of service, Cardinal Segura has long been among the most vigorous and outspoken members of the Spanish hierarchy. His frequent criticisms of the Franco regime, especially in regard to the issue of Protestant propaganda in Spain, have occasioned considerable controversy both at home and abroad. However, he has been frequently praised by the Holy See for the pastoral zeal with which he has served the more than a million and a half Catholics of the Seville See.

His courageous stand on behalf of the Church during the republican regime led to the Cardinal being expelled from the country. Not long afterwards he resigned his office as Archbishop of Toledo, and went to Rome, where he filled various important offices in the Roman Curia from 1922 to 1937. After the Franco victory, he returned to Spain as Archbishop of Seville, where he was welcomed with great rejoicing.

In the Seville See, he became famous for his weekly sermons in which he discussed issues of current religious interest. Besides attracting attention by his discourses and pastoral warning against Protestant proselytism, he gave considerable impetus to the spiritual retreat movement among his people.

Fallen-Aways Cited

The Hague, Holland—(NC)—Mass-goers throughout Holland were reminded that more than half the Catholics of the country have lost their spiritual ties with the Church. Holland, they were told, is fast becoming a mission country.

Landslide Closes Quebec Cathedral

Nicolet—(NC)—Civil authorities have condemned as unsafe the Diocese of Nicolet's Cathedral here which was carried to the brink of a 70-foot crater by a landslide.

The mass of moving ground, largely stones and sand, sent six buildings, including the Bishop's residence and the seminary, tumbling down an embankment into the narrow Nicolet River.

A Brother and the Academy's choir were killed in the slide. They were Brother Hermenegilde, 55, a leading worker in the 4-H Club in Quebec, and Mrs. Alphonse Bolvers, 60, the cook.

THE CATHEDRAL of St. John the Baptist was condemned because of cracks appearing in it. It is on the brink of the crater and there is fear it will fall.

Bishop Albertus Martin of Nicolet gave the city's faithful a special dispensation freeing them of the obligation of attending Mass on the Sunday following the slide.

It marked the first time Mass had not been offered in Nicolet's Church since the city was founded in 1687. However, there was overflow attendance at Masses offered in various small religious community chapels.

At the time of the disaster, Bishop Martin was in an office in his residence, a four-story stone building. The Bishop, and the 11 priests in the building, leaped to safety as the structure started to move. None suffered any serious injury.

The crater was caused by the river, only a few hundred yards away, which undermined the land on which the buildings stood. As the crater widened, the landslide began.

Some 3,000 persons were evacuated from their homes after the slide. These included some 250 in the Home for the Aged conducted by the Grey nuns, situated only a few hundred feet from the Bishop's residence, but away from the river. The Bishop ordered evacuation of the convent of Sisters of the Assumption, which houses 600 students.

The financial loss to Nicolet has been estimated as high as \$10,000,000, a large part of which was suffered by religious organizations.

Italy Farmers Keep Fifth Thanksgiving

Rome—(NC)—Farmers, and their families throughout the country thronged to churches for special prayers in observance of Italy's counterpart to America's Thanksgiving Day—La Giornata del Ringraziamento, Nov. 13.

This year marked the fifth consecutive national observance of the holiday. It has been promoted from the beginning by the Catholic Association of Italian Workers and the Confederation of Independent Farm Growers.

Unlike the American Thanksgiving, which has come to take on the character of a general family feast, the Italian Day of Thanksgiving is observed mainly by farmers. Emphasis is on the spiritual—thanking God for the past year's blessings and praying for new ones in the coming year.

It was in the spirit of homage to "the Lord of the land" that farmers far and near flocked to their local churches carrying offerings of bread, wine, oil and other fruits of the harvest to be laid before the altar.

After the Masses, the priests went to the piazzas in front of the churches—every Italian farm community has a square in front of its church—to bless the farm machinery the farmers had lined up along the streets.

3 Million Helped By Food Aid To Spain

Madrid—(NC)—Close to 3,000,000 persons were recipients of surplus food supplies donated by the United States Government and shipped to Spain by Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, during the 12 months ending October 30. The actual number of beneficiaries was 2,960,000, mostly children and elderly people.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Here in the United States you have made it so easy to say "Thank you" to God and to the people who have helped you. You have made it so easy to say "Thank you" to the Lord who has given you so much. You have made it so easy to say "Thank you" to the Lord who has given you so much. You have made it so easy to say "Thank you" to the Lord who has given you so much.

WHAT YOU PUT IN THE HAND OF THE HOLY FATHER YOU PUT IN THE HAND OF CHRIST. "Be mindful, O Lord, of Thy servants and handmaids, who will come before you." Have you had the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for the repose of your loved ones? You can help their souls and help our poor missionaries who depend on Mass offerings for their daily sustenance.

CHRISTMAS The birthday of Christ is a spiritual feast. Why not manifest this fact by spiritual giving? What greater gift than the gift of Holy Mass? We have artistically colored Mass Cards for the living and the dead. Or give the gift of supernatural life through membership in the Near East which supports the crusade of Christianity. Individual \$1, Family \$3, for one year; and Individual \$20, Family \$100, for the duration of life on earth and also through Purgatory. Or give someone an enrollment in one of our DOLLAR-A-MONTH MISSION CLUBS; A STRING-LESS GIFT. DESIGNATED GIFT such as:

AN ORPHAN CHAPEL Christmas is a family feast. It is a feast loved especially by children. How wonderful it is in the name of the Christ-Child, someone could on Christmas Day, donate a Chapel. The ORPHANS OF ZOUK MIKAEL, in Lebanon are impoverished like the Infant Babe of Bethlehem. They need a Chapel badly. \$4,000 will build one. How suitable as a lasting memorial to one's family! Orphan-children reach Heaven quickly. They will bless your every penny.

IS GOD IN YOUR WILL? THIS IS THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE NEAR EAST

BUILD A CRIB Medical KM ... \$75 Confessional ... \$50 Crucifix ... \$25 Statue ... 30 Censer, Boat ... 20 Sanctuary Bell ... 15 Picture ... 15 Altar Stone ... 10 One of these could be made a Christmas Gift for the House of God. Give thanks for God's many Blessings. Remember a loved one living or dead.

SISTER MARY LETIZIA and SISTER MARY SIMPLICIA are Franciscan Missionary novices of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Alexandria, Egypt. Marked by the poverty of their Holy founder, St. Francis, these elect of God humbly and timidly beseech us to help them. Each needs \$150 a year for her tuition. Out of love for the heart of her who bore us a Savior, could you make their Christmas happy?

At the Pontifical Greek College in Rome are two worthy aspirants to the Priesthood, GIORGIO in Second Philosophy, ANTONIO in First Philosophy. Both are without financial resources. Could you assist the Father of Christendom, Pope Pius XII, to form and train them. Such a spiritual partnership will bring rich harvest. The cost for GIORGIO will be \$100 a year over a period of five years; and for ANTONIO, \$100 a year for six years. Please put a small installment in their Christmas stockings.

THE COVERTOUS MAN IS ALWAYS IN WANT

Near East Missions Francis Cardinal Spellman, President; Msgr. Peter P. Toohy, Nat'l Sec'y. Send all communications to: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

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